

Southern Oregon Retirees Association  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2011

Present: Sue Corp, Gene Stringer, Pat Wolfe, Dan Bulkley, Ernie Ettlich, Jim Dean, Dave Hoffman, Bruce Moats, Sally Klein, Jerry Insley, Don Graber, Beverly De La Zerda, Don Reynolds and Lodi Belford

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM at the Cambell Center by President Sue Corp.

Ernie made the motion, and seconded by Lodi, to approve the minutes from the October 13 and November 10 meetings.

Old Business

Discussion of methods for funding filled the entire meeting with issues involving membership fees, costs of newsletter and luncheon options being revisited. The only definite decisions were:

- 1) that it is necessary to determine a membership fee; suggestions ranged from \$20 - \$30 per member. Considerable discussion about how the membership fee would be used included: newsletter, plus guest lunches, with the remainder to the Retirees' Association scholarship fund; newsletter, partial lunch underwriting, remainder to reserve until a desired reserve is reached; no connection between scholarship donations and membership fee.
- 2) that we keep in mind (as pointed out by Ernie) that the original goal/purpose of the organization was to keep in touch with retirees so that all retirees should get a newsletter whether they become a member or not and
- 3) using bulk mailing of the newsletters is preferable to trying to maintain an e-mail mailing list. Currently, the newsletter is posted on the retirees' website for those who have computer access.

Other comments:

- \$ Sally suggested a \$10 membership fee received from 100 members would cover the costs of the newsletter.
- \$ Until we actually set a membership fee, announce it, and set a time frame for receipt of the membership dollars, we will not be able to estimate the dollars available for distribution to our Association's expenses.
- \$ A tiered level of membership was suggested, but considered difficult to manage.
- \$ A membership fee which would include lunches would necessarily increase the amount; this alternative does not seem promising.
- \$ SOU retirees residing out of the southern Oregon area currently number approximately 54—out of a total of approximately . . .
- \$ Adjustments to the lunch menu and set up could reduce costs considerably (soup, salad and dessert, use of paper vs. cloth napkins, use of disposable plates and utensils. Because our luncheons are held in the Student Union, pricing is dictated by Sodexo. Current lunch costs average \$15 per plate.
- \$ A short questionnaire at our March 4 luncheon could provide feedback once we collect additional information on costs. (Because our funding source-- Elderhostel--ceases at the beginning of fall term 2011, a decision about membership fees should be made prior to the Spring newsletter so that any fees could be announced prior to the fall term meeting).

\$ Further information about benefits to SOU Retirees should be pursued in order to emphasize the importance of Retirees maintaining a connection with the University community. (At the moment, known benefits include Schneider Museum free admission, SOU Athletic Events—free tickets to all athletic events and “staff rates” for use of the Fitness Center.)

Further research:

- 1) Pursue effort to sell “ads” to finance the newsletter (Thom Jones, Wayne Schumacher, and Ernie Ettlich)
- 2) Obtain price estimates to compare full lunch or soup/salad (Sally Klein) and present options to the group
- 3) Propose possibility of someone to underwrite the cost of the newsletter (Jim Dean will do article for the spring newsletter)
- 4) Inquire into the SOU Foundation assuming part ownership of the Retirees’ Association. (Thom Jones has expressed a willingness to pursue this option).

Winter and Spring luncheon details and concerns will be discussed at the next meeting on February 16. Discussion on membership privileges will also be continued.

New Business:

Jim Dean and Bruce Moats agreed to serve on the nominating committee to secure candidates to fill the positions of the five Council members who have completed their three-year term (Dan Bulkley, Ernie Ettlich, Ron Nitsos, Wayne Schumacher, Sandi Whitesitt).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lodi Belford